

# The I-405 Master Plan

All the I-405 improvements are part of a broad, long-range plan approved in 2002 by the cities and counties along the corridor, the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Authority, Sound Transit, King County Metro and WSDOT. This vision includes four new freeway lanes, bus rapid transit and other improved transit services, additional HOV direct-access points, vanpools, carpool lanes and more park-and-ride spaces.

Since the 2002 Master Plan, the I-405 funding strategy has been to incrementally address the worst congestion chokepoints first and to coordinate all transportation modes into a working system. With the 2003 and 2005 funded projects, nearly \$1.5 billion will be invested in the corridor.

We are making great progress, and each project underway will make a big difference in keeping parts of the I-405 corridor moving. But we are only partway there. WSDOT will continue to work with the cities and counties within the I-405 corridor to complete additional improvements toward the Master Plan.

## Key Elements in the Master Plan

### I-405/SR 167 Interchange

The I-405/SR 167 interchange is one of the most congested interchanges in Washington. The I-405 Master Plan completely reconstructs this interchange, removing the existing loop ramps and building high-speed general-purpose and HOV ramps between SR 167 and I-405. New on- and off-ramps shift downtown Renton access from Rainier Ave. to Lind Ave. and Talbot Rd. As funding becomes available, I-405 engineers have designs ready to build portions of the Master Plan, such as those illustrated in the middle image below.



Current I-405/SR 167 interchange



Incremental Improvements



Ultimate Vision

### BRT & Other Transit Improvements

The new Bellevue Downtown Access Project, completed on time and under budget, is the first of several connections in a future Bus Rapid Transit network connecting transit centers and HOV direct-access points (*BRT is like light rail with tires, see example to the right*). The Master Plan doubles the Corridor's vanpool network, increases transit service, adds 5,000 park-and-ride spaces and improves electronic signing.



BRT transit stop planned near Newcastle

## For More Information

Visit the I-405 Project website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405)

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INTERSTATE

405

What's New on I-405?

December 2005

# Kirkland Construction is Underway

## Congestion Relief, Safety and New Capacity Coming to the I-405 Corridor

If you are frustrated with the traffic on I-405 you are not alone. Nearly half of respondents to a recent survey rated I-405 traffic congestion as "very serious," about half also said they regularly change their plans or go out of their way to avoid I-405.

The good news is that big improvements are in store for I-405 over the next several years. Construction has begun on the first of multiple projects in the Kirkland, Bellevue, Renton, Tukwila and Bothell areas designed to ease congestion hotspots and improve motorist safety.

WSDOT recently awarded a construction contract and will begin work in early 2006, one year ahead of schedule, on the addition of one new I-405 lane in each direction from 124th Street to 85th Street in central Kirkland.

In June 2005, work began on the Totem Lake Freeway Station, a Sound Transit-funded HOV direct-access ramp and transit station at 128th Street in Kirkland. This project will also add a new east-west connection for local traffic.

These projects move us one step closer to completing the multi-modal Master Plan for I-405 (*see back page*), which was approved in 2002 by the cities and counties in the corridor, regional and federal transportation and transit agencies, and WSDOT.

## 2005 Funded Improvements Moving Forward

The 2005 Gas Tax Transportation Funding Package adopted by the Washington State Legislature includes \$972 million for 11 improvement projects on the I-405 corridor, from Bothell in the north to Tukwila in the south (*see inside*). Preliminary work on these I-405 improvement projects is under way. Visit the I-405 website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405) for the latest information.



Construction proceeds on the Totem Lake Freeway Station at NE 128th Street in Kirkland. This HOV/direct access project, funded by Sound Transit and built by WSDOT, will facilitate express bus service, provide a new crossing over I-405 and alleviate congestion on freeway ramps at NE 124th Street. Check out [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405) for more information about what to expect and what to do about it.

## I-405 Projects Deliver

- More predictable and reliable travel times
- More capacity and less congestion
- Improved safety—fewer accidents caused by congestion and weaving traffic
- Highway improvements completed on an accelerated schedule
- Nearly 3-to-1 return on investment in travel time savings and other economic benefits
- A more aesthetically planned corridor

## Regular Construction Updates

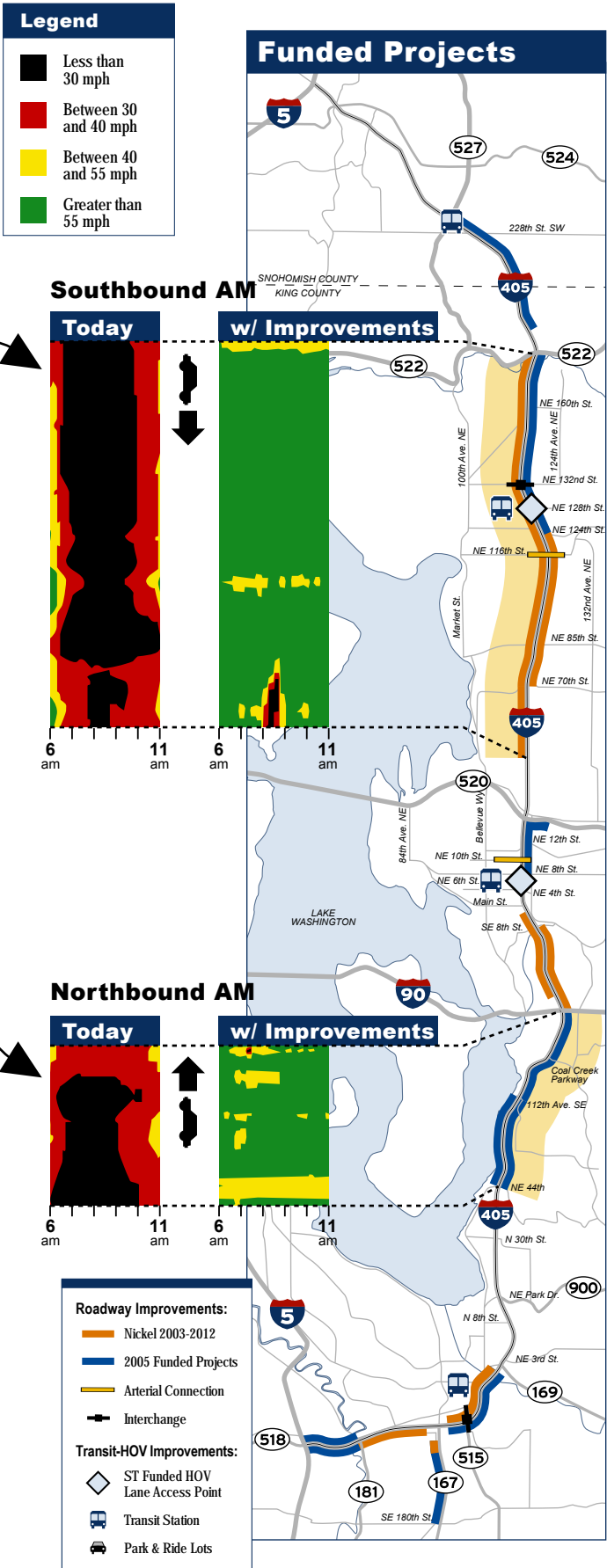
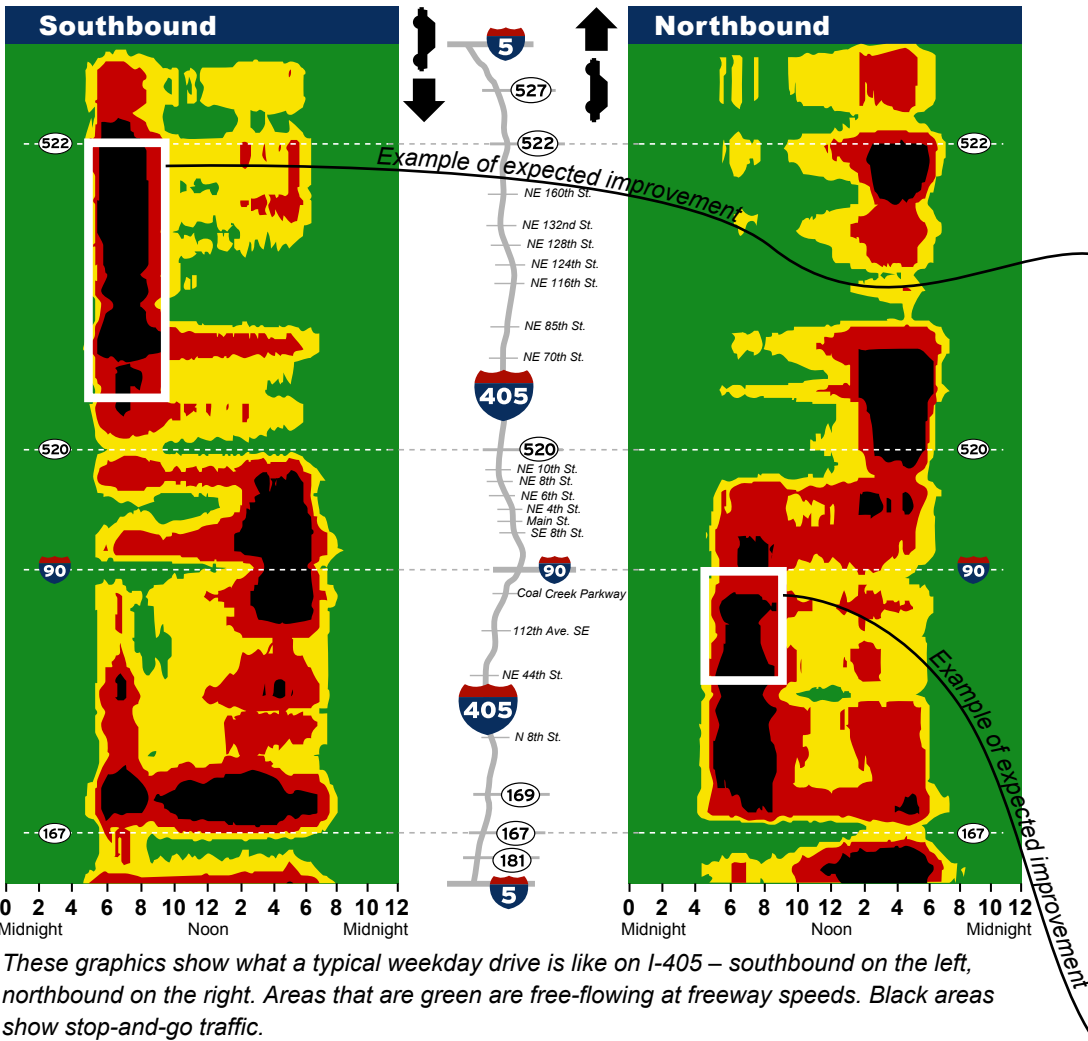
For construction updates about these and other I-405 projects, join WSDOT's email update list by sending an email to [lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov) with "subscribe i405" in the body of the message. Also visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405) for more information about I-405 projects.



# Why it makes sense to fix I-405

I-405 commuters face up to 12 hours of congestion a day. Unpredictable travel times, fewer productive work hours, increased stress and a high rate of side-swipes and rear-end collisions—it all adds up to a staggering impact on our economy and quality of life.

On top of that, population and employment along I-405 are both expected to grow by more than 35 percent in the next 20 years.



# Projects Funded in 2005

The 2005 Washington State Legislature approved \$972 million for 11 additional projects in Bothell, Kirkland, Bellevue, Renton and Tukwila (shown in blue on the map to the left). Along with the 2003 Transportation Funding Package (shown in orange on the map to the left), these projects create a \$1.5 billion program that is part of a Master Plan to address congestion and improve traffic flow for cars and transit on I-405. These investments are on par with other successful major highway design-build projects in Denver (T-REX) and Salt Lake City (I-15).

## Bothell

**195th and SR 527:** New lane increases northbound general purpose capacity by 50%, increasing northbound evening driving speeds 15 to 20 miles per hour.

## Kirkland

**NE 124th to SR 522:** New lane increases capacity by one-third and improves safety by reducing weave north of NE 160th Street.

**NE 132nd Street:** New interchange improves access to I-405 and alleviates traffic from 124th.

## Bellevue

**NE 8th to SR 520:** Project relieves congestion and improves safety by eliminating the weave between NE 8th and SR 520 traffic on I-405.

**NE 10th Street, Bellevue:** New over-crossing improves access into downtown Bellevue and relieves congestion at NE 8th.

## Renton to Bellevue

**112th Avenue to I-90 Area:** Increases general purpose capacity by 50% with the northbound auxiliary lane to reduce northbound peak morning congestion.

**NE 44th to 112th:** New lanes in each direction increase capacity and reduce accidents at a major I-405 chokepoint.

## Renton / Tukwila

**SR 167 to SR 169:** New lane increases northbound capacity by 50%.

**Talbot Road (SR 515):** New interchange reduces congestion by taking traffic off SR 169 and SR 167 interchanges providing additional access to downtown Renton with a new connection to Talbot Road (SR 515).

**SR 167 – I-405 to SE 180th:** New lane reduces accidents and increases capacity by 50% and eliminates a bottleneck for people traveling south of I-405.

**I-5 and West Valley Highway (SR 181):** Adds a new lane in each direction to reduce accidents and increase capacity by 50% both northbound and southbound.

# Projects Funded in 2003

## Nickel Improvement Projects Underway

### Ending the Kirkland Crawl

The Kirkland Nickel Improvement Project is a year ahead of schedule! Stage 1 focuses on the section between NE 85th Street to NE 124th Street, adding a new lane in each direction and re-building the ramps to the NE 116th Street interchange. We've selected a design-build contractor and construction begins this spring. Stage 2 completes the southbound lane between SR 522 to SR 520, the northbound lane between NE 85th and NE 70th, and completes a new, more efficient NE 116th interchange.

### Wiping out the Wilburton Weave

Designs are underway for a new northbound lane to be added between I-90 and SE 8th Street and a new southbound lane between Main Street and I-90 to eliminate the "Wilburton Weave." This project also rebuilds the Wilburton Tunnel. Construction is scheduled for early 2007.

### Unclogging Renton to Tukwila

WSDOT is on schedule with designs to add capacity through the crowded Renton to Tukwila section of I-405. Design solutions will also improve operations approaching the congested I-405/SR 167 interchange. Construction is scheduled for late 2007.